

DATE: July 13, 2001

TO: American College of Emergency Physicians, California Chapter
American College of Surgeons, California Chapter
Association of Prehospital Care Coordinators
California EMS Administrators' Association
California Ambulance Association & California Healthcare Association
California Community Colleges
California Conference of Local Health Officers
California Fire Chiefs' Association & California Highway Patrol
California Health & Human Services Agency
California Medical Association
California Nurses Association & California Peace Officers' Association
California Rescue and Paramedic Association
California Professional Firefighters
California State Firefighters' Association
Commission on Emergency Medical Services
County Supervisors' Association of California
EMS Medical Directors Association of California
EMT-Paramedic Training Programs
Emergency Nurses Association, California Chapter
Local EMS Agency Administrators
Local EMS Agency Medical Directors
State Board of Registered Nursing
State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
State Department of Health Services & State Fire Marshal
Vision Leadership Team
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Richard E. Watson
Interim Director

SUBJECT: 15-Day Public Comment Period on Proposed Revisions to the Paramedic Regulations.

Based on comments received during the 45-day public comment period held from April 27, 2001 through June 11, 2001 on proposed revisions to the Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Regulations (Chapter 4, Division 9, Title 22, California Code of Regulations) and subsequent action on those comments by the members of the Paramedic Task Force at their June 27, 2001 meeting, additional changes have been made to the regulations. The additional changes are non-substantial, solely grammatical in nature, or sufficiently related to the original text that the public was placed on notice that the changes could result from the originally proposed regulatory action.

A 15-day public comment period beginning July 16, 2001 and ending close of business (5:00 p.m.) on July 30, 2001 is being provided on the additional changes only, which are indicated by shading with additions shown in double underline and deletions shown in strikeout, in the attached proposed revisions to the regulations. Changes to the "Recommended Guidelines for Disciplinary Orders and Conditions for Probation" are indicated by shading with single underline for additions and strikeout for deletions. **Please note that the Emergency Medical Services Authority will only consider comments on the additional changes (shaded text) and not on the full text of the regulations. The EMS Authority will not consider comments received after the July 30, 2001 date. Comments should be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:** Emergency Medical Services Authority, 1930 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or FAX: (916) 324-2875 to the attention of Connie Telford, Staff Services Analyst (e-mail ctelford@emsa.ca.gov) or Nancy Steiner, Paramedic Program Manager (e-mail nsteiner@emsa.ca.gov). Specific questions can also be directed to Ms. Telford or Ms. Steiner in writing or by calling (916) 322-4336.

Copies of the revised Regulations and "Recommended Guidelines" are available on the EMS Authority's website at www.emsa.ca.gov or may be requested by calling or e-mailing Connie Telford or Nancy Steiner at the phone number or email address listed above.

Additional Changes

Section 100178.1 (b)(1)&(2) and (e)(1) have been amended for clarity.

Section 100178.1 (h) has been added to clarify that an individual's right to appeal the denial of a license or petition for reinstatement of a license pursuant to Chapter 5 of the Government Code has not been negated by this section.

Recommended Guidelines for Disciplinary Orders and Conditions of Probation

Page ii - Community Service - Free Service, has been deleted from the Table of Contents.

Page 1 - Section 1: FORWARD, sentence was added to second paragraph to clarify that the director of the EMS Authority has the final determination as to the discipline to be imposed.

Optional Conditions of Probation, Page 13, #3. Biological Fluid Testing, has been rewritten for clarity regarding acceptable drug testing facilities, responsibility of costs associated with the drug screening, and time frames.

Optional Conditions of Probation, Page 13, #4. Drug/Detoxification/Diversion Program, has been changed for clarity regarding responsibility of costs associated with a drug/detoxification/diversion program.

Optional Conditions of Probation, Page 13, #5. Community Services - Free Service, has been deleted as a separate optional condition of probation and added as a possible component under number 6, Educational Course Work.

Optional Conditions of Probation, Page 14, # 7. Ethical Practice of EMS and Page 15, #8. Stress/Anger Management have been changed to eliminate "successfully" from the language to reduce confusion and clarify the meaning of attending and completing the course requirements.

Optional Conditions of Probation, Page 15, # 9. Practical Skills Examination and Page 16 - 10. Oral Skills Examination have been changed to allow a paramedic to function as a paramedic while under the direct supervision of a preceptor even though he/she may not have passed the exam.

Optional Conditions of Probation, Page 16, #11. Psychiatric/Medical Evaluation has been amended to clarify responsibility of costs associated with a psychiatric/medical evaluation.

REW/cjt

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